

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Mutually compatible plasmids pTET3 and pCRY4, isolated from the strain of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* deposited under DSM number 5816, wherein plasmid pTET3 is characterised by
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- i) a length of ~ 27.8 kbp and the restriction map shown in Figure 1,
- ii) a replication region comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and
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- iii) an antibiotic resistance region consisting of a tetA gene imparting tetracycline resistance and an aadA gene imparting streptomycin and spectinomycin resistance, shown in SEQ ID NO:6, and plasmid pCRY4 is characterised by
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- iv) a length of ~ 48 kbp and the restriction map shown in Figure 2, and
- v) a replication region comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.
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2. A composite plasmid capable of autonomous replication in coryneform bacteria, said plasmid comprising
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- i) at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of plasmid pTET3 or pCRY4,
- ii) at least one DNA replication region derived from one of the plasmids pTET3 or pCRY4,
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- iii) a gene fragment which is derived from *E. coli*, *B. subtilis* or *Streptomyces* and may multiply therein, and

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9. A process for the production of L-amino acids, by fermentation of coryneform bacteria, wherein a strain is used which contains at least one plasmid vector according to one of claims 2 to 7.
- 5 10. The process according to claim 9 wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine or L-threonine.
11. A process for the production of a vitamin by fermentation of coryneform bacteria, wherein a strain is used which contains at least one plasmid
- 10 vector according to claim 7 or claim 8.
12. The process according to claim 11 wherein the vitamin is D-pantothenic acid.

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